



Sheep Flock Health

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What do you think is the most important factor in maintaining fit & healthy sheep?

- Having access to the right medicines?
- Having ewes in the right condition?
- Getting the feed right?
- Right treatment to right animal at the right time?
- Good genetics?
- Attention to detail?
- Good hygiene & management?



What are the key drivers of sheep flock profitability?

Maximum flock output

- Maximise lambs sold (kg of carcase) per ewe (or per hectare of land)

Minimum flock costs

- Spread fixed costs over lots of lambs
- Shave variable costs with efficiencies
- Note - replacements, feed, vet & med

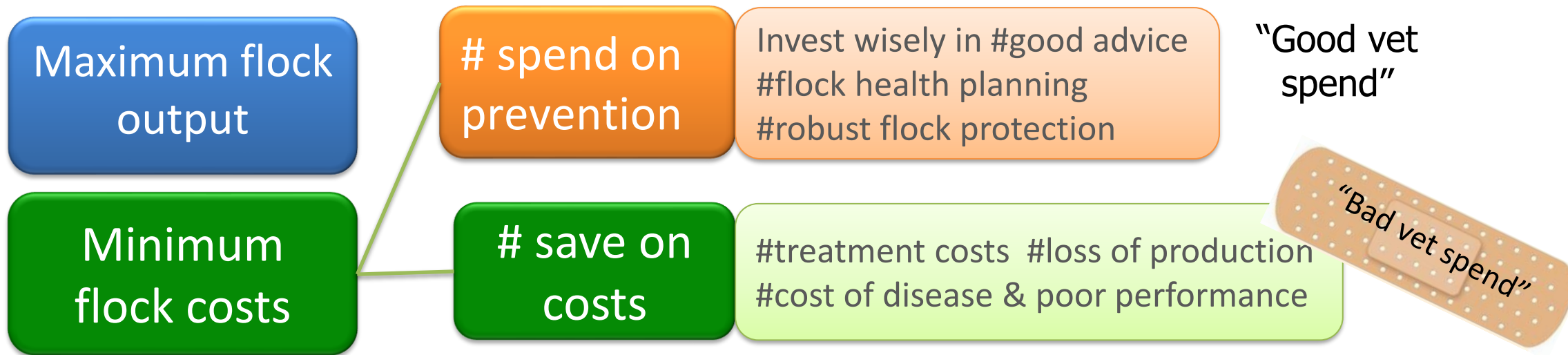
Maximum product value

- High value lambs sold at optimum point of production to target market

But less than 14% of UK sheep farmers calculate their profitability or know their cost of production!



How does good vet spend affect flock profitability?



Every cost must
be an investment





What does a 'good' farmer look like in India?

- Good yields, a tidy farm, efficient, profitable, productive
- Stock to be proud of, making good prices
- Productive, healthy livestock
- Disease kept under control (not fire-fighting)
- Working hard, maximum returns



Fit, healthy,
robust flock

*“You look after the ewe
& she’ll look after you”*

Ewe condition &
nutrition underpins
everything

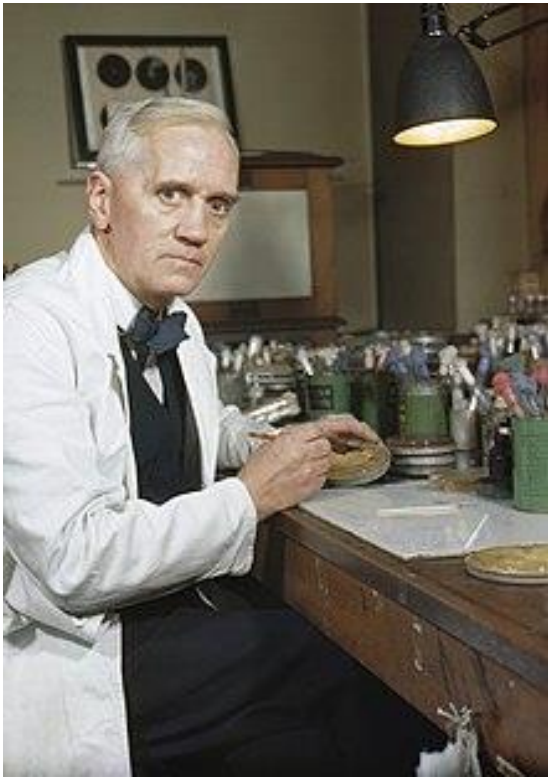


Fit, healthy,
robust flock

- Target medicine if risks are high
- Avoid unnecessary medicine if risks are low



Antibiotic use – Why does it matter?



- Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in the 1920s. It became commercially available in 1941.
- Throughout our lifetimes we have expected success in treating bacterial conditions - in our hospitals, on our farms.
- Selection for resistance is normal & expected - what it means is that every time we use (or mis-use) a dose of antibiotic, we reduce the chance of it working next time.
- Resistance spreads from one bacteria to another
- Our only solutions -
 - To discover more antibiotics (don't hold your breath)
 - To use what we have as carefully as we can

NOT prophylactically!



Anthelmintic use – Three main things to think about

1. How many times we use wormers in the flock – each use selects for resistance.
2. How effective each dose is - under-dosing
3. What proportion of the worm population is exposed to the wormer when sheep are treated.



Fit, healthy,
robust flock

Plan

Have a plan & protocols

Use testing and act on results

Prevent

Good nutrition, hygiene, shelter & biosecurity

Protect

Colostrum – quality, quantity & quickly

Vaccinate when required

Fit &
Well Fed



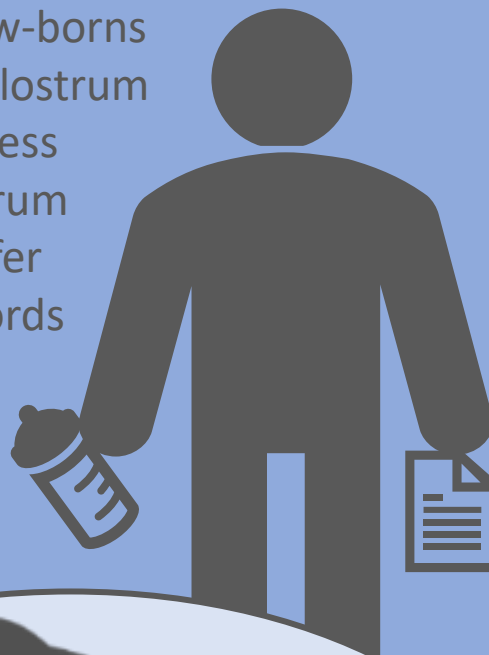
- ✓ Correct body condition
- ✓ Quality balanced diet
- ✓ Fully vaccinated
- ✓ Sound in foot
- ✓ Dagged & clean

Colostrum
Quality Quantity
Timing

Protect

Plan

- ✓ Analyse forage & arrange quality diet
- ✓ Sort care of new-borns
 - Maximise colostrum
 - Minimise stress
- ✓ Monitor colostrum quality & transfer
- ✓ Keep good records



Lambing Success

Prevent



- ✓ Sufficient shelter outside
- ✓ Clean, dry, draught-free inside
- ✓ Plenty of fresh bedding
- ✓ Turn-out as soon as possible
- ✓ Good hygiene
- ✓ Clean & disinfect equipment

Hygienic
Appropriate





Consider
the risks

Plan

Take risk-based decisions— every day & especially when buying in

Prevent

Minimise risks with good nutrition, hygiene, shelter, biosecurity

Protect

Use diagnostic tools to know the risk
Use other tools (breeding, vaccines)
to manage the risk



What progress have we made with anthelmintics in UK?

- Reduced use of wormers in adult ewes
- More use of faecal egg counts (FEC)
- Less routine worming of lambs
- Better knowledge of AR status
- Greater use of tools to help fluke control
- Sheep farmers are asking for more help/advice





What progress have we made with antibiotics?

- Lamb oral antibiotic sales reduced by 34% from 2016 to 2020
- Increased awareness of Plan Prevent Protect principles
- Short-listed for Antibiotic Guardian Award in 2018
- More vaccination for abortion control instead of antibiotics
- Reduction in lameness - better control, fewer to treat



Requires
trust in

- Science
- Stockmanship
- Support network
- Monitoring